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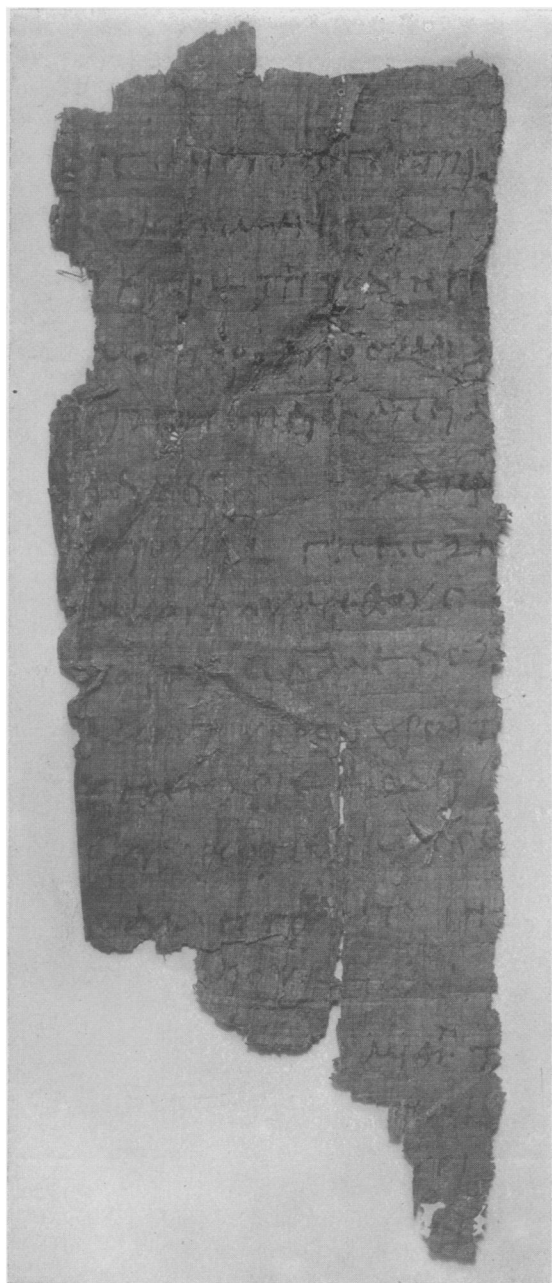
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VI.—A MEDICAL PAPYRUS FRAGMENT.

Among the writer's Greek papyri there is one, unfortunately mutilated, which, while not precisely literary in character, presents some points of more than ordinary interest. Like the Oxyrhynchus papyrus CCXXXIV, it contains a series of medical prescriptions. Where alternative remedies for the same ailment are given, they are introduced by ἄλλη, much as in the Oxyrhynchus papyrus, which employs ἄλλο. Parts of three remedies are preserved in the fragment. It is not clear for what the first was designed, but alum (στυπτηρία) and a sort of wax ointment scented with rose (κηρωτὴ ῥοδίνη) were among the drugs recommended. The previous wiping (προαποσμήχειν) of the part affected or of some instrument or utensil used, is also enjoined. The second disorder prescribed for seems to have been leprosy; no other way of completing λεπρ[seems more probable. It is doubly annoying here that the lines should be fragmentary, in view of the interest attaching to this disease and to ancient methods of dealing with it. Two treatments are prescribed. Of the second of these practically nothing remains. The first seems to have consisted in part at least of external applications, perhaps of some ointment in which dry pitch and possibly the blossom of some plant were ingredients. It is possible, however, that the word partly lost before τοῦ ἄνθους was χ]αλκοῦ and that the reference is to that ἄνθος χαλκοῦ, as the ancients called the scaly 'efflorescence' formed on the cooling surface of the heated metal; cf. the scholium on Nicander, Th. 257. As in the first prescription, the instructions include a wiping (περιμάσσειν), here probably of the part affected, perhaps to remove any excess of the substance applied that might remain. Or as the noun lost before ψυχρῶ seems to have modified περιμάσσει, the wiping may have been intended to cool and soothe the diseased parts. Galen's expression, περιμάττε σπόγγῳ θερμῶ (14, 424, 3) suggests σπόγγ]ῳ ψυχρῶ περιμάσσει here; but the last trace before ψυχρῶ cannot belong to ω. It might be ι of σπογγῶι, but adscript ι does not appear elsewhere in the papyrus.

As in the case of the Oxyrhynchus prescriptions, these are written on the *verso* of a papyrus the *recto* of which had previously been used for some document, probably an account, as several amounts in artabae of grain are clearly legible on the *recto*. While the *recto* preserves no date, the hand is of a sort common in the second century A. D., and the later use of the papyrus for the medical prescriptions probably fell in the second or third. It thus belongs in time as well as in subject matter, with the Oxyrhynchus medical papyrus already mentioned. The papyrus came from Kôm Ushîm in the Fayûm. It measures cm. 6 by 16. The hand is a well-formed and fairly regular semi-uncial, not of the best literary type, but very far removed from the ordinary cursive hand of Roman documents. The spaces, such as are sometimes called "half-paragraphs", in ll. 6 and 13, seem further to favor the view that the manuscript was not a mere private copy, made for the writer's own use, as many literary works written on the *verso* of old documents doubtless were, but a more careful and formal writing, perhaps designed for sale. The only punctuation is a high point in l. 6, at the end of the first prescription. A blank space of cm. 2 is left after it before the beginning of the second prescription, and a similar space seems to have been left (l. 13) before the third. The lines are from the upper part of the column, and cm. 1. 7 of the upper margin are preserved. Little if anything is lost from the right-hand margin of the column; at the left something is lost, but how much cannot be certainly determined; hardly less than four or five letters, however, for the lost beginning of l. 8 pretty certainly contained the concluding letters of ξη[ρâs and the opening letter, or letters, of ?χ]αλκοῦ, and probably some intervening word or words, besides.

		] δις μινος στυπτηρ
ias?		]ς κεκαμμένης δι
		]η κηρωτη ροδινη[
		]μα προαποσμηξ[
5. as		]θει την επειφανεια[ν?
		]επει δει· λεπρ[
		] . . υρου λ [πισης ξη[
pas	? χ]	αλκου του ανθους
		]κοψας εμβαλε εις κ[



10.]λκου πυρος χρωτι[
]ξη ενχριε εις δερ
]ι ψυχρω περιμασσε[
] αλλη πυ[.]ιτυ . ιν
]αιου παλαι
 15.].() . . . ομιθιν () π[
]ν λι
]υρι
]αν[

Here the papyrus breaks off.

5 *Λ. ἐπιφάνειαν*

7 *Λ. πίσης*

Many forms and sorts of *στυπτηρία* (alum) were known to Greek writers on medicine; *σχιστή*, *στρογγύλη*, *ἀστραγαλωτή*, *χαλκίτις*, *τριχίτις*, *πλινθίτις*, *πλακίτις*, *ύγρά*, *Αἰγυπτίνη*, *Μηλίη*, are some of the names applied to them. The first letter of l. 2 might belong to *στυπτηρ[ια]*s, were it not that ll. 7 and 8 lead us to expect a greater lacuna at the beginning of lines. Even as it is, *κεκαυμένης* probably limits *στυπτηρ[ίας]*. *Κηρωτή ροδίνη* (l. 3), the *ceratum rosaceum* of Appuleius, seems to have been a recognized preparation of the ancient pharmacopoeia. *Προαποσμήχειν* too (l. 4) is met with in Dioscorides (1, 144) Oribasius (2, 417, 9) and Galen (13, 374 C). *Ἐπιφάνεια* (l. 5), while not primarily a medical term, is used by medical writers in describing symptoms. Paul of Aegina, for example, says that leprosy manifests itself in *τραχυσμός ἐπιφανείας*. The restoration *πίσσα ύγρά* is suggested by Dioscorides (1, 95), who speaks of *πίσσα ύγρά* and *πίσσα ξηρά*: *ἡ δὲ ξηρὰ πίσσα ἐφομένης τῆς ύγρᾶς γίνεται καλεῖται δὲ αὕτη ὑπ' ἐνίων παλίμπισσα*. That Theophrastus too recognized the same distinction, though under a different terminology, is implied in his *πίττα ὠμή*; and the corresponding *πίσσα ἐφθή* occurs in Hippocrates. The imperatives *ἐμβαλε* and *ἐνχριε*, ll. 9 and 11, recall some of the directions of Galen and of the Oxyrhynchus prescriptions, where imperatives singular and aorist participles largely constitute the verbal mechanisms.

A third medical fragment, of a more formal character than the two mentioned, is preserved in the Cairo Museum (No. 10160) and will be found in the University of Chicago Decennial Publications, Vol. V, pp. 5, 6.